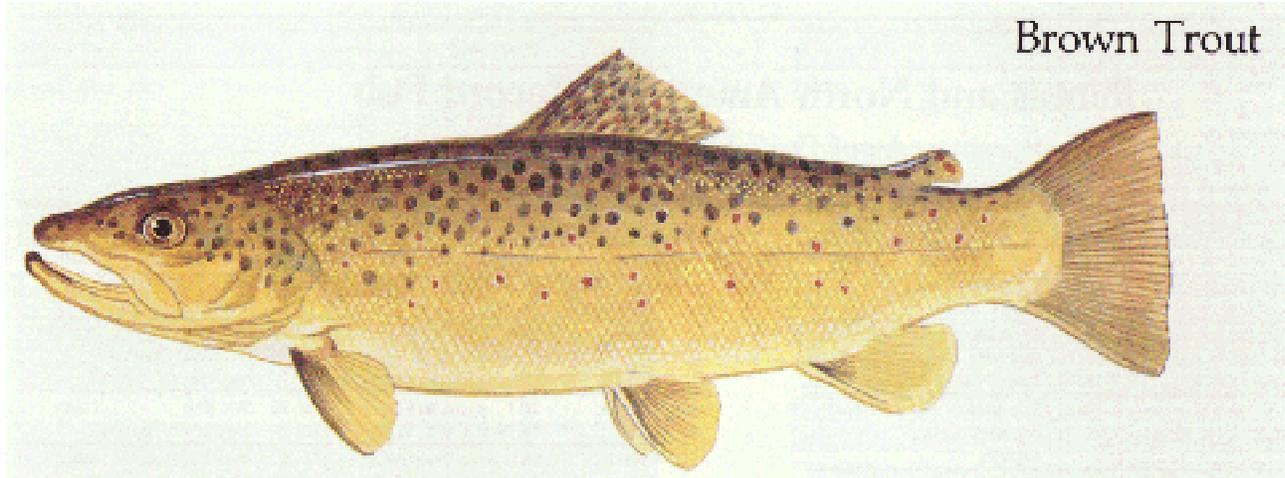


Brown Trout



Brown trout (*Salmo trutta* Linne). When brown trout were first introduced into California waters, two subspecies were recognized, the Loch Leven and the German Brown, since the original stocks came from Scotland and Germany. Because of extensive crossing, both in the hatchery and in the wild, all such trout in California are now properly referred to as brown trout.

Browns are generally able to sustain their populations through natural reproduction, and stocking is necessary only in lakes without suitable spawning conditions. Because brown trout are wary, they are hard to catch. Frequently they grow large and, to sustain themselves, feed largely on smaller fish. This is not because they are more predaceous than other trout, but because the wary brown lives long enough to reach a size where it can no longer subsist on insects alone. Brown trout are abundant in the Owens River and in the lower reaches of tributary streams. Good populations also exist in Pleasant Valley Reservoir, and in the various forks of Bishop Creek as far up as the reservoirs. North Lake has some real tackle busters in it; browns up to ten pounds have been taken there.

Text excerpt from the *Deepest Valley* by the Sierra Club.